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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/833,069	04/12/2001	Bjorn J. Gruenwald	INME-002/00US	1466

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EXAMINER

CORRIELUS, JEAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/833,069

Applicant(s)

GRUENWALD, BJORN J.

Examiner

Jean M Corrielus

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 28-38 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2172:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the application filed on 21 April 2001, which claims 1-38 are presented for examination.

Related Applications

2. The applicant is advised to provide the statuses of the patent application cited in the "cross Reference to Other Applications" section in page 1 of the specification.

Drawings

3. Applicants are required to furnish the formal drawings in response this office action. No new matter may be introduced in the required drawing. Failure to timely submit a drawing will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement filed 19 March 2002 (paper no.8) complies with the provisions of M.E.P.. § 609. It has been placed in the application file, the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Art Unit: 2172:

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6. Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miller et al. (hereinafter "Miller") U S Patent No. 5,926,811.

As to claim 22, Miller discloses the claimed features "an occurrence of data located in the database corresponding to a search term" (col.4, lines 37-40; col.5, lines 5-45; col.6, lines 58-67); "an instance of a predecessor group related to said occurrence, wherein said predecessor group includes data corresponding to at least one data field located in the database" (col.4, lines 40-42; col.5, lines 5-45; col.6, lines 58-67); and "at least one instance of at least one descendant group related to said instance of said predecessor group, wherein said at one descendant group includes data corresponding to at least one other data field located in the database" (col.4, lines 42-50; col.5, lines 5-45; col.6, lines 58-67).

As to claim 23, Miller discloses the claimed feature "at least one instance of at least one further descendant group related to said at least one instance of said at least one descendant group, wherein said at least one further descendant group includes data corresponding to at least a

Art Unit: 2172:

second other data field located in the database” (col.4, lines 37-40; col.5, lines 5-45; col.6, lines 58-67).

As to claim 24, Miller discloses the claimed feature “said predecessor group is a parent group”(col.4, lines 37-40; col.5, lines 5-45; col.6, lines 58-67).

As to claim 25, Miller discloses the claimed feature “wherein said instance of said parent group is directly related to said occurrence”(col.4, lines 37-40; col.5, lines 5-45; col.6, lines 58-67).

As to claim 26, Miller discloses the claimed feature “wherein said instance of said parent group is indirectly related to said occurrence through at least one other group”(col.4, lines 37-40; col.5, lines 5-45; col.6, lines 58-67).

As to claims 21 and 27:

The limitations of claims 21 and 27 have been noted in the rejection of claims 22-26 above. They are, therefore, rejected under the same rationale.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-20 and 28-38 are allowable over the prior art made of record.

Art Unit: 2172:

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or early communication from the Examiner should be directed to **Jean M. Corrielus** whose telephone number is (703) 306-3035. The Examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 7:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu, can be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at (703)305-4393.

Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231 **or faxed to:** (703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry) **Or:** (703)305-9731 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT") Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.



Jean M. Corrielus

Patent Examiner

October 18, 2002